

CLAIMS

5           1. A method of treating excess weight in a  
mammal by continuous administration of 1 mg protein/kg  
body weight/day or less of an OB protein selected from  
the group consisting of:

- SJF/2*
- 10           (a) recombinant methionyl murine OB protein  
(SEQ. ID. No. 2);  
10           (b) recombinant methionyl human OB protein  
(SEQ ID No. 1);  
15           (c) the protein of (a) or (b) lacking the  
methionyl residue at position -1;  
15           (d) the protein of (a), (b) or (c) lacking a  
glutamine at position 28; and  
15           (e) a chemically modified derivative of (a),  
(b), (c) or (d).

20           2. A method of claim 1 wherein the chemically  
modified derivative is a pegylated derivative.

25           3. A method of claim 2 wherein the pegylated  
derivative is N-terminally pegylated.

25           4. A method of claim 1 wherein said continuous  
administration is accomplished by osmotic pump.

30           5. A DNA sequence according to SEQ ID No. 1.

30           6. A vector containing a DNA sequence  
according to claim 5.

35           7. A vector of claim 6 wherein said vector is  
pCFM1656.

35           8. A DNA sequence according to SEQ ID No. 3.

*SJF/3*

9. A vector containing a DNA sequence according to claim 8.

5 10. A vector according to claim 9 wherein said vector is pCFM1656.

10 11. A method of refolding partially purified OB protein in a solution obtained from inclusion bodies, said partially purified OB protein selected from the group consisting of:

15 (a) recombinant methionyl murine OB protein (SEQ. ID. No. 2);

(b) recombinant methionyl human OB protein (SEQ ID No. 1);

(c) the protein of (a) or (b) lacking the methionyl residue at position -1;

20 wherein said refolding is accomplished using N-lauroyl sarcosine.

12. A method of claim 11 wherein said sarcosine is used at a concentration of 0.5% - 2.0% weight per volume of solution.